

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing Amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. The applicant has reviewed the Office Action of September 2, 1999 and submits that this Amendment is responsive to all points raised therein.

Although the Applicant neither accepts nor acquiesces to the rejections for these claims, Applicant has canceled claims 45-50 and 60-62. In order to expedite the allowance of the patent application, while reserving all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications based thereon. Claims 55, 66 and 83 have been deleted because their subject matter is incorporated now in amended claims 51, 64 and 80, respectively, as explained below.

Claims 52, 63 and 69 have been amended in an editorial manner in order to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With respect to claim 51, the Applicant neither accepts nor acquiesces to the rejections for this claim. Applicant has amended claim 51 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 55, in order to expedite the allowance of the patent application. Applicant reserves all rights in this claim to file divisional and/or continuation patent application based thereon. Accordingly, claim 51 as amended, overcomes the rejection Under 35 USC 102(b) raised by the Examiner. Claims 52-54 and 56-59, dependent thereon, are allowable for the same reason.

With respect to claim 64, the Applicant neither accepts nor acquiesces to the rejections for this claim. Applicant has amended claim 64 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 66, in order to expedite the allowance of the patent application. Applicant reserves all rights in this claim to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications based thereon. Accordingly, claim 64 as amended, overcomes the rejection Under 35 USC 102(b) raised by the Examiner. Claims 65 and 67-69, dependent thereon, are allowable for the same reason.

With respect to claim 80, Applicant neither accepts nor acquiesces to the rejections for this claim. Applicant has amended claim 80 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 83. In order to expedite the allowance of the patent application. Applicant reserves all rights in this claim to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications based thereon. Accordingly, claim 80 as amended, overcomes the rejection Under 35 USC 102(b) raised by the Examiner. Claims 81-82 and 84, dependent thereon, are allowable for the same reason.

Applicant notes the Examiner's allowance of claims 70-79 over the art of record.

In addition, it is believed that new independent claims 85 and 90, and new dependent claims thereon 86-89 and 91-94, are allowable, since they include the subject matter of allowable claims. Claim 85 includes the subject matter of former claims 64 and 68, and claim 90 includes the subject matter of former claims 64 and 69.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form or content of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted.
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